

REMARKS

1. Rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sung et al. (US 6,509,920):

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Sung et al.'s teachings are directed toward positioning an ink ribbon in a color printer. Referring to Fig.4 of US 6,509,920, two light sources 62, 64 emit light that penetrates different ink color areas 46, 48, 50 of an ink ribbon 42. The light transmitted through these color areas is detected by an optical sensor 66 producing a changing high/low sensing output voltage as the ink ribbon 42 is scrolled past the optical sensor 66 (col.3 lines 1-31). In all embodiments, Sung et al. teach determining what color of ink ribbon 42 is adjacent to the thermal print head 74, and thus, what color dye is available for printing, by analyzing the output voltage of the optical sensor 66.

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Claim 1 of the present application recites:

“using the thermal printhead to heat the dye frame with the overcoating and to heat a different area on the dye frame by two distinct time periods”,

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which is supported in the disclosure is paragraphs [0025] and [0026] and by Figs.6 and 7, for instance. That is, the thermal print head heats the overcoating by two distinct time periods, resulting in disposing overcoating of two thicknesses onto a picture, as disclosed.

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Nowhere does Sung et al. teach heating an overcoating layer of an ink ribbon by different times to dispose different thicknesses of overcoating. Specifically, the examiner's references (col.2, lines 54-62, col.6 lines 1-8, and Figs.2 and 6) do not address heating overcoating in any way. At best, Sung et al. simply teach a thermal print head 74 capable of printing overcoating.

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In many ribbon printing systems, such as Sung et al.'s, different areas on the ribbon are, of course, heated at different times. However, the applicant's claim 1 recites heating different areas of overcoating by different time periods. For example, all overcoating for a picture is heated for 1.0 ms except an area in the shape of flower that is heated for 2.0 ms. This results in a watermark-like image of a flower as different heating times correspond to different thicknesses of overcoating disposed. Clearly, "heating at different times" and "heating by different time periods" are entirely different.

Reconsideration of claims 1-6 in view of the above explanation is politely requested. Claims 2-6 are dependent on claim 1 and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed.

2. Present Application considering Katsuda et al. (US 6,130,698)

In US 6,130,698, Katsuda et al. teach printing overcoating onto a picture by heating the overcoating with a thermal print head. Katsuda et al. teach using a pulsed voltage to heat the overcoating. Katsuda et al do not teach or suggest heating different areas of overcoating by different time periods.

Sincerely,



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Date: 7/4/2003